

Notwithstanding the limitations of its counsel, Mrs. Sanger's book will prove of value in breaking down prejudice and in directing attention to problems of vital importance. It is written in an interesting and spirited manner; it manifests a broad humanitarian outlook; and, in general, it is tempered with common sense.

S. J. HOLMES.

Brockway, A. Fenner and Hobhouse, Stephen. ENGLISH PRISONS TO-DAY. Longmans, Green and Co.

Darrow, Clarence. CRIME: ITS CAUSE AND TREATMENT. George G. Harrap & Co.

Gordon, Mary. PENAL DISCIPLINE. George Routledge & Sons.

Smith, M.D., M. Hamblin. THE PSYCHOLOGY OF THE CRIMINAL. Methuen & Co.

THESE four recent books on Prison and Crime approach the subject from different angles, and with different qualifications for the task. The first is the Report of the Prison System Enquiry Committee, which was established in 1919 by the Executive of the Labour Research Department, but later on severed its connection with that department. It obtained its facts from retired prison officials and ex-prisoners among others, but particularly from a number of educated men and women able to observe and record their observations, who had been imprisoned as suffragists or anti-militarists. It is a systematic record, especially valuable for those who want the facts.

Mr. Darrow is a well known American lawyer, who has had a large experience in criminal cases. His book reveals him as a clear-headed thinker, who goes to the root of the whole matter, and states his conclusions in a brief and lucid manner, which all can understand.

Dr. Mary Gordon has written a racy account of some of her experiences during thirteen years as Assistant Inspector of H.M. Prisons. Even if she is an extremist she cannot fail to drive home the important lesson she is impelled to teach.

Dr. Hamblin Smith is one of the senior Medical Officers in the Prison service, who was specially appointed to the Birmingham prison four years ago in order that he might be one of the two medical psychologists to carry out the scheme inaugurated by the Birmingham Justices for the special examination of persons before the Courts, who appear in any way to be wholly or partially irresponsible. His book is a scientific treatise on the cause of Crime, and the proper investigation of criminal cases, and will be invaluable to the serious student.

These books are so different that if they all lead to the same conclusion, then that verdict is given with an authority none could have had singly. What is the the me of the first? Not that Prison and Court officials are unkind, but that they are non-understanding: they are the administrators of a System which must be revised. Revenge is the origin of punishment, but the hard treatment so prompted leads neither to the reform of the individual, nor the deterrence of others. It is not likely to cure when so much crime is due to feeble-mindedness or other defect, or can be attributed to poverty and all poverty means. The offences of young persons are often due to lack of opportunity, or of good education or influence, or to an adventurousness for which their

surroundings give no satisfactory vent. Social betterment and education therefore in the widest sense of the term constitute the essential treatment. It is treatment and not punishment that is required. For the small residuum of offenders who continue to exhibit anti-social tendencies of a serious kind in spite of prolonged education and arduous training for ordinary life, segregation under satisfactory conditions is essential. It is pointed out that only by a much more liberal expenditure can the reproach on our present methods be taken away, but it is unlikely that political critics inveighing against departmental extravagance will abstain from denouncing such expenditure. The military and mechanical organisation, so aggressively obvious in Prison, is maintained by the desire to save money. Would proposals such as these satisfy Clarence Darrow? They are the logical outcome of his theory that Crime is ultimately a product of civilisation. Life in a modern industrial town is so difficult even for the best endowed and most adjustable person that many of the less fortunate must fail. The child is hungry for the country and all the country connotes. He does not get a fair chance in a big city, nor does the prisoner at the bar get a fair chance when all his past bad records can be brought up against him, but none of his good deeds may be mentioned to prove that even if he be guilty of the actual charge, he may not really deserve punishment this time. Crime is a form of behaviour and so largely determined by the environment. Hence Dr. Mary Gordon's insistent demand for a psychological examination of all prisoners and for treatment on psychological lines, and not in accordance with a system which does not appear to belong to this time or civilisation at all. Some of her very human prisoners, in whom the good and bad are so strangely, or should we say, naturally blended, will appeal to many and inspire them to work unceasingly till the unfortunate and the outcast can get a real chance.

The necessary preliminary medical examination of the prisoner is detailed by Dr. Hamblin Smith, who explains the new psychology and stoutly maintains that conduct is invariably the result of mental life, and that all the causes which have given been as explanations of criminality are only operative in so far as they affect the offender's mental life. Each of these books therefore leads to the same conclusion. Each would seem ready to subscribe to an Eugenic dictum—Breed from the best—Educate well—Re-educate those who fall—Segregate the impossible.

W. A. POTTS.

Dixon, Roland B. Professor of Anthropology at Harvard University.
 "THE RACIAL HISTORY OF MAN." \$6. (Scribners).

PROFESSOR DIXON has set himself the task of making a new analysis of the peoples of the world into their constituent racial elements in accordance with "a frank acceptance of demonstrable relationships wherever they may be found" and a "willingness to follow the evidence to whatever conclusions it may lead." These intentions are good; but when we find Prof. Dixon urging, in order to pursue them, some "radical simplification of criteria" which promises more definite results than have been obtained hitherto we are led to examine the